

Talking Points for Lions 79ers

January 24, 2000

Some 1999 Accomplishment

- ***Tax Cut!***: Certainly the biggest accomplishment of 1999 was providing the first property tax cut in over 10 years. Despite having to serve the fastest growing County in America and incurring large increases in state and federal mandates, we still made the tough fiscal decisions necessary to finally reduce your property tax by 2.27 cents.
- ***IMPROVEMENTS TO BOSWELL & DEL WEBB HOSPITALS:***
By selling nearly \$120 million in special tax-exempt bonds over the past year and a half, Maricopa County helped ensure that our own Del Webb Hospital and Boswell Hospital will get necessary additional space for medical and surgical care, a Women's Health Center, outpatient services, and resource rooms for health education.
- ***Turnaround of our own Hospital & Integrated Health System:***
I'm very pleased to report a forecasted net income of \$16 million for our Integrated Health system. This strong financial performance enables us to fund \$21.5 million towards medical equipment, new capital projects, and infrastructure improvements to the system. Unlike most public hospital systems in the United States, the Maricopa County Health System requires no County General Fund subsidy to provide for indigent care, for the second year in a row.
- ***One Stop Shop system*** (Our Board has implemented the first fully coordinated land planning system of its kind w/our One Stop Shop system. (Tested on a small scale first at our NW Valley facility on Bell Avenue near Dysart).
 - Now the public doesn't have to go to three different government agencies for zoning cases.

- Now the onus is on the governmental agencies to coordinate their efforts and ensure permits and development controls are met and complied with.
- ***RESTORED ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FUNDING:*** Although the federal government has total responsibility for securing our nation's borders, Washington continues to only reimburse local governments about 48 percent of the eligible costs to incarcerate illegal aliens. Shockingly, the Clinton Administration proposed further cutting incarceration funding by \$85 million. I am proud to have helped lead the charge locally to defeat this proposal as Congress last month restored the full \$85 million.
- ***SUPPORT FOR OLIVE CENTER:*** For the third straight year, we included funding for the Olive Center as one of the non-profit agencies which Maricopa County has chosen to fund. This year's \$20,000 will assist the Olive Center in financing programs including home meal delivery, senior legal assistance, and employment placement programs.
- ***\$50,000 for SCAT:*** The Sun Cities Area Transit (SCAT) offers service to elderly, disabled and indigent residents needing assistance in getting to work, job interviews, medical appointments and shopping. This year District 4 was successful in doubling our County funding to this integral program by a total of \$50,000.

Plans for 2000

- Maricopa County Hospital and Health Systems Board
- Newly formed County Streamlining Committee
- Tobacco - Gonna hear a lot about Tobacco in next few months. County's position is very simple:
 - Maricopa County residents have spent millions of their tax dollars toward health care related programs to deal with tobacco related illness.

- Former Attorney General Grant Woods worked out the final settlement to all of Arizona and its political subdivisions for \$3.1 billion which included the Counties' share.
 - State has argued that Maricopa County isn't included in that final settlement and we should sue tobacco companies on our own.
 - But tobacco companies argue that the Countys' share is part of the final settlement, so get it out of the State's pot of money (per Missouri courts). Catch - 22.
 - State does not face an imminent loss of any money unless the matter is not resolved by December 31, 2001, year and a half away. In the meantime, our money is making interest.
- New Calendars